



PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS
1800 ELMERTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17110

Mailing Date: October 24, 2019

Emma Best
MuckRock News
Dept. MR 80501
411A Highland Avenue
Somerville, Massachusetts 02144

PSP/RTKL Request N° 2019-1000

Dear Ms. Best:

On September 17, 2019, the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP) received your request for information pursuant to Pennsylvania's Right-to-Know Law (RTKL), 65 P.S. §§ 67.101 – 67.3104, wherein you state:

Records describing, authorizing or mentioning expenses or personnel assignments in response to or accommodation of visits from officials in the federal government between January 1, 2001 and the present.

A copy of your request is enclosed. By letter dated September 24, 2019, you were notified in accordance with RTKL section 67.902(b) that PSP required an additional thirty days to prepare this final response to your request.

After several attempts to contact you by email on September 17, 2019, September 23, 2019 and October 7, 2019, no response has been received as of date.

On its face, your request is denied as insufficiently specific. The request lacks specific information, such as names of officials, types of expenses or personnel assignments, necessary for PSP to ascertain and retrieve the requested records. The RTKL requires that a request for records be made with "sufficient specificity to enable the agency to ascertain which records" are being requested. 65 P.S. § 67.703; *Kantrowitz v. Great Valley School District*, OOR Dkt N° AP 2009-0646; and *Mollick v. Methacton School District*, OOR Dkt N° AP 2009-0180.

Outside of the RTKL and without waiving any exemptions, in the event you are able to provide additional information, please do not hesitate to submit another RTKL request.

To the extent that your request seeks or may be construed to seek records involving covert law enforcement investigations, including intelligence gathering and analysis, PSP can neither confirm, nor deny the existence of such records without risk of compromising investigations and imperiling individuals. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES, therefore, should this response to your request be interpreted as indicating otherwise. In all events, should such records exist, they are entirely exempt from public disclosure under RTKL and CHRIA.

You have a right to appeal this response in writing to the Office of Open Records, 333 Market Street, 16th Floor, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17126-0333. Appeal forms are available on the OOR website: <https://www.dced.state.pa.us/public/oor/appealformgeneral.pdf>. If you choose to file an appeal, then you must do so within 15 business days of the mailing date of this response and send to OOR:

- 1) this response;
- 2) your request; and
- 3) your reasons for believing that the record is public (a statement of the grounds you assert for the requested record being a public record), as well as for believing the agency has wrongly withheld the record from disclosure (a statement that addresses any ground stated by the agency for the denial). If the agency has given several reasons for withholding the record, then indicate which ones you believe to be wrong.

Sincerely,



Kim Grant
Deputy Agency Open Records Officer
Pennsylvania State Police
Bureau of Records & Identification
Right-to-Know Law/Subpoena Section
1800 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110
RA-psprighttoknow@pa.gov
1.877.785.7771 (Main) | 717.525.5795 (Fax)

Enclosures: RTK Request, Tracking N° 2019-1000
Grant Verification

PENNSYLVANIA STATE POLICE
DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

VERIFICATION OF
KIM GRANT
DEPUTY AGENCY OPEN RECORDS OFFICER

I, Kim Grant, Deputy Agency Open Records Officer of the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP or Department), am authorized to prepare this verification on the Department's behalf in response to PSP/RTKL Request N° 2019-1000. Accordingly, on this 24th day of October, 2019, I verify the following facts to be true and correct, to the best of my knowledge or information and belief:

1. I am familiar with PSP/RTKL Request N° 2019-1000, which is attached to this verification.
2. After several attempts to contact the requestor by email on September 17, 2019, September 23, 2019 and October 7, 2019, no response has been received as of date.
3. The request is insufficiently specific because it fails to provide me sufficient facts to determine which records are sought and whether, on review, any part of the request constitutes a public record requiring disclosure.
4. Specifically, PSP cannot identify the records sought from the information provided because the request lacks specific information, such as names of officials, types of expenses or personnel assignments, necessary to ascertain and retrieve the requested records. Absent additional information, PSP cannot pinpoint the repository to search.
5. Outside the RTKL, the requestor was encouraged to provide more information and submit another request.

I understand that false statements made in this verification are subject to penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. § 4904, relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.



Kim Grant
Deputy Agency Open Records Officer
Pennsylvania State Police

Matter, Charles R

2019-1000

9-24-19

From: Rozier, William A
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 11:03 AM
To: Matter, Charles R
Subject: FW: [External] Pennsylvania Right to Know Act Request: Expenditures relating to visits from federal officials (Pennsylvania State Police)
Attachments: PA_Right_to_Know_Request_Form.pdf

Chuck,

New request.

Thanks,
Ski

From: 80501-65630321@requests.muckrock.com <80501-65630321@requests.muckrock.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 17, 2019 11:00 AM
To: Rozier, William A <wrozier@pa.gov>
Subject: [External] Pennsylvania Right to Know Act Request: Expenditures relating to visits from federal officials (Pennsylvania State Police)

RECEIVED
RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW OFFICE
SHERIFFS UNIT
2019 SEP 17 A 11:08

ATTENTION: This email message is from an external sender. Do not open links or attachments from unknown sources. To report suspicious email, forward the message as an attachment to CWOPA_SPAM@pa.gov.

Pennsylvania State Police
RTK Office
1800 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110

September 17, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

Pursuant to the Pennsylvania Right to Know Act, I hereby request the following records:

Records describing, authorizing or mentioning expenses or personnel assignments in response to or accommodation of visits from officials in the federal government between January 1, 2001 and the present.

I am a member of the news media and request classification as such. I have previously written about the government and its activities, with some reaching over 100,000 readers in outlets such as Gizmodo, MuckRock, Motherboard, Property of the People, Unicorn Riot, and The Outline, among others. As such, as I have a reasonable expectation of publication and my editorial and writing skills are well established. In addition, I discuss and comment on the files online and make them available through non-profits such as the library Internet Archive and the journalist non-profit MuckRock, disseminating them to a large audience. While my research is not limited to this, a great deal of it, including

this, focuses on the activities and attitudes of the government itself. As such, it is not necessary for me to demonstrate the relevance of this particular subject in advance.

As my primary purpose is to inform about government activities by reporting on it and making the raw data available, I request that fees be waived.

The requested documents will be made available to the general public, and this request is not being made for commercial purposes.

In the event that there are fees, I would be grateful if you would inform me of the total charges in advance of fulfilling my request. I would prefer the request filled electronically, by e-mail attachment if available or CD-ROM if not.

Thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation in this matter. I look forward to receiving your response to this request within 5 business days, as the statute requires.

Sincerely,

Emma Best

Filed via MuckRock.com

E-mail (Preferred): 80501-65630321@requests.muckrock.com

Upload documents directly:

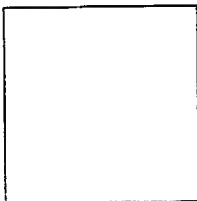
https://accounts.muckrock.com/accounts/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.muckrock.com%2Faccounts%2Flogin%2F%3Fnext%3D%252Faccounts%252Fagency_login%252Fpennsylvania-state-police-435%252Fexpenditures-relating-to-visits-from-federal-officials-pennsylvania-state-police-80501%252F%253Femail%253Dwrozier%252540pa.gov&url_auth_token=AAAboJ54dDocag3wFYC6JKuuxYM%3A1IAExC%3At92kvVmQwvYkU2pgirNLroDDvis

Is this email coming to the wrong contact? Something else wrong? Use the above link to let us know.

For mailed responses, please address (see note):

MuckRock News
DEPT MR 80501
411A Highland Ave
Somerville, MA 02144-2516

PLEASE NOTE: This request is not filed by a MuckRock staff member, but is being sent through MuckRock by the above in order to better track, share, and manage public records requests. Also note that improperly addressed (i.e., with the requester's name rather than "MuckRock News" and the department number) requests might be returned as undeliverable.



2019 SEP 17 A 11: 04
RECEIVED
RIGHT-TO-KNOW LAW OFFICE
SUBPOENA UNIT



pennsylvania

OFFICE OF OPEN RECORDS

STANDARD RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUEST FORM

DATE REQUESTED: 2019-09-17

REQUEST SUBMITTED BY: ☒ E-MAIL ☐ U.S. MAIL ☐ FAX ☐ IN-PERSON

REQUEST SUBMITTED TO (Agency name & address): Pennsylvania State Police

1800 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110

NAME OF REQUESTER : Emma Best

STREET ADDRESS: Dept MR 80501 411A Highland Ave

CITY/STATE/COUNTY/ZIP(Required): Somerville, MA 02144-2516

TELEPHONE (Optional): _____ EMAIL (optional): 80501-65630321@requests.muckrock.com

RECORDS REQUESTED: **Provide as much specific detail as possible so the agency can identify the information. Please use additional sheets if necessary*

See Attached

DO YOU WANT COPIES? ☒ YES ☐ NO

DO YOU WANT TO INSPECT THE RECORDS? ☐ YES ☒ NO

DO YOU WANT CERTIFIED COPIES OF RECORDS? ☐ YES ☒ NO

DO YOU WANT TO BE NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE IF THE COST EXCEEDS \$100? ☒ YES ☐ NO

**** PLEASE NOTE: RETAIN A COPY OF THIS REQUEST FOR YOUR FILES ****
**** IT IS A REQUIRED DOCUMENT IF YOU WOULD NEED TO FILE AN APPEAL ****

FOR AGENCY USE ONLY

OPEN-RECORDS OFFICER:

☐ I have provided notice to appropriate third parties and given them an opportunity to object to this request

DATE RECEIVED BY THE AGENCY:

AGENCY FIVE (5) BUSINESS DAY RESPONSE DUE: 2019 SEP 17 A 11: 04

****Public bodies may fill anonymous verbal or written requests. If the requestor wishes to pursue the relief and remedies provided for in this Act, the request must be in writing. (Section 702.) Written requests need not include an explanation why information is sought or the intended use of the information unless otherwise required by law. (Section 703.)**